

Symington Speech  
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In addition to other briefings and reviews during the course of my recent trip abroad, I was afforded the opportunity to inspect activities and programs of the Central Intelligence Agency in a number of places. Prior to my departure, I received extensive briefings from the Agency and during my trip I talked in detail with a great number of Agency representatives. I have had this opportunity in the past, but on this occasion I was conducting these interviews in a new capacity.

Senator Russell, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and also Chairman of a Subcommittee of Armed Services for the Central Intelligence Agency, has recently appointed me as a member of that Subcommittee. In this capacity I was afforded the fullest information and

all of the details I needed to do a meaningful review of the activities of the Agency.

I think it pertinent to point out that I also discussed the programs of the Agency with senior military commanders where appropriate and with the Ambassadors. Uniformly, I found that the Agency's activities and programs were fully coordinated with U. S. policy and programs. I further determined that these far-flung representatives of the Agency were making truly significant contributions to the American effort.

I found no instances where CIA activities were uncontrolled or contrary to U. S. policy and indeed I believe it difficult, if not impossible, for such uncontrolled activities to occur. This belief is based on existing coordination procedures and policy directives stemming from the highest level in Washington and the rigid controls applicable to field activities.

I have always been impressed over the years in my contacts with the Agency with the integrity and professional competence of its representatives. Having had the opportunity to hold detailed discussions with many more Agency representatives, I am strongly reinforced in my conviction ~~conviction~~ that the caliber of personnel in this Agency is of the highest.

The Agency has a difficult and at times a dangerous mission to perform. I believe the Agency accomplishes its tasks in an outstanding manner. This is not to say the men and women of this Agency are perfect or do not make mistakes, but I do wish to say to the members of this body and to the American public that they should be proud of this Agency and the people who serve it and our country with unstinting devotion. In addition to this brief report which necessarily must be general, I am reporting my findings and observations to the Subcommittee for the CIA of the Senate Armed Services Committee and its Chairman.